

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

February 4, 2003

7:30 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, and Forest

Absent: Alderman Thibault

Mayor Baines stated I have a couple of announcements before we begin the meeting. On Thursday we are hosting a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors that will take place at the Institute of Politics at St. Anselm's College. It should be an interesting morning and I hope that as many Aldermen as possible are able to attend. We are having a breakfast at 7:30 AM at the Holiday Inn in downtown Manchester, which each one of you is invited to attend as well. Also, the public at large is invited to the St. Anselm College Institute of Politics beginning at 9 AM when Mayor Menino will call the meeting to order and the portion of the day concludes a little before 1 PM. On the program will be people such as Reverend Jonathan DeFelice, the President of St. Anselm College, Peter Clavelle, the Mayor of Burlington, the Honorable Howard Dean, the former Governor of Vermont will address the group in the morning. We also have Wayne Ayers, the Chief Economist from Fleet Bank who will be there. By the way, all of the department heads are invited to attend as well. He will be talking about the economic stimulus, the President's 2004 budget and the Metro Economies report. There will also be remarks from Tom Cochran, the Executive Director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Another panel will feature Robin Comstock, President of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce; the Honorable Bernie Streeter, Mayor of Nashua; Jane Milirick, Chair of the NH Republican Party; Dave Lawton, Executive Secretary of Teamster's Local 633; Tom Adams, Executive Director of the Manchester Education Association and there will also be a Business and Schools Partners in the Future forum featuring Dr. Frank Bass, the Asst. Superintendent of Schools in Manchester; Chris King, Vice President of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Dr. Carol Lacroix, Dean of the University of New Hampshire at Manchester. There will be another panel on the Economic Rewards and Challenges of the Refugee Population. Panelists will be Westee Egmont, the Executive Director of the International Institute of Boston in Manchester and Peter Clavelle the Mayor of Burlington, VT. Again, that is Thursday at the Institute of Politics beginning at 9 AM and you are certainly cordially invited to attend. A couple of other announcements. We are sponsoring the Third Annual Mayor's Blarney Breakfast on March 13 at 7:30 AM. The good news is we have already sold 260 tickets.

Our goal this year is to raise \$40,000 for Special Olympics NH and the March of Dimes and anyone at home or anybody who wants information on it can call the Mayor's Office at 624-6500. We have a really fun program lined up. Also, the Memorial High School Library grand opening will be this Sunday at 6:30 PM. It is a wonderful event to celebrate the beginning of our efforts to improve Manchester schools. Any of you who have seen the new library at Memorial High School it is absolutely spectacular. We are very proud of that and also hopefully some of you will visit the new kindergarten that has opened up at Bakersville as well. Finally, I would like to commend the Highway Department. We have had an extraordinary series of events with snow and this past weekend in particular we had an unexpected snowstorm. It is interesting that I am finding more and more people who, with all due respect, would like the snow to disappear immediately as soon as it hits the ground. That was an extraordinary snowstorm in that it was not anticipated. There were a lot of cars on the streets and there is a lot of big equipment that tries to navigate the streets and they did a commendable job. I would urge the people in the community to be patient at times and understand the circumstances in which the Highway Department performed. People are called back to work in the middle of the night, on Sundays, Christmas, whenever it might be and I am very, very proud of the Highway Department, its workers and the leadership that Frank Thomas provides but especially the people who get behind those plows at all hours of the day and night and try to keep our City clear. This has been an extraordinary winter and I urge the public to be patient. They are doing an incredible job. Congratulations, Frank to you and everyone who works for your department.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Baines advised if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

Ratify and Confirm Poll Conducted

- A.** Approving a request of the Selectmen of Ward 2 to move the polling location from St. Paul's Methodist Church to St. Catherine's School Gymnasium located at 206 North Street for the upcoming Special State General Election to be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2003.

Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways

- B.** PSNH Pole Petitions #11-944 and #11-945 located on South Mammoth Road/ Lucas Road and on Penacook Street.

Informational – to be Received and Filed

- C.** Communication from Mayor Baines advising that he has approved a budget transfer of \$5,000.00 from Finance Regular Salaries to Finance Contract Manpower to assist with departmental functions until some of their vacant positions are filled.
- D.** Minutes of a meeting of the Mayor's Utility Coordinator Committee held on January 15, 2003.

- E. Communication from Chief Driscoll submitting a Ward Crime Report for 2002.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- F. Resolution:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars (\$19,638.00) from Contingency to the Assessor’s Office for a Customer Service Representative Position.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

- G. Advising that it has accepted the City’s monthly financial statements for the six months ended December 31, 2002 and is forwarding same to the Board for informational purposes.
- H. Advising that it has accepted the following Finance Department reports:
- a) department legend;
 - b) open invoice report over 90 days by funds;
 - c) open invoice report (all invoices for interdepartmental billings only);
 - d) open invoice report (all invoices due from the School Dept. only); and
 - e) listing of invoices submitted to City Solicitor for legal determination
- and is forwarding same to the Board for informational purposes.
- I. Advising that it has accepted the following Board of Assessor’s reports:
- a) update of tax base;
 - b) status of overlay;
 - c) status of outstanding abatements;
 - d) status of tax appeals; and
 - e) status of exemptions and payment in lieu of taxes
- and is forwarding same to the Board for informational purposes.

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

- J. Recommending that the Assessor’s positions within the City be broken into three separate positions; a department head position at Grade 25, an Assessor-Residential position at a Grade 24 and an Assessor-Commercial position at a Grade 24. The Committee further recommends that the employees within the current Assessor positions be grandfathered at a grade level 26 with all standard benefits attributed to employees at that level.

The Committee further recommends that such positions within grandfathering clause be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for ordinance preparation; and that the Human Resources Director and City Solicitor in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Assessors submit such draft ordinances to the committee for consideration.

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE
AND
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

- K.** Recommending that the following items pertaining to the restructuring proposal of Economic Development, Planning and Building Departments be approved:
- 1) Move the administrative support person for the Zoning Board of Adjustment from the Planning Department to the Building Department;
 - 2) Create a “Plan Review” team consisting of members of the Planning & Development Department, Department of Building Regulations and Fire Department; and
 - 3) Move the current independent “Urban Ponds Restoration” administrator into the Planning Department.

The Committees further recommend that item 1 and item 3 noted above be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for ordinance preparation to be submitted by the City Solicitor.

The Committees also note that the remainder of the restructuring proposal has been tabled pending the receipt of further information from the Planning Department.

COMMITTEE ON JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- L.** Advising that it has accepted the Certificate of Completion for the Hallsville Elementary School Bathroom Renovations and Southside Middle School Interior Classroom Additions/Renovations projects and is submitting same to the Board for informational purposes.
- M.** Advising that it has accepted the enclosed project financials, architects’ and consultants’ reports for the month of January 2003 relative to the NORESKO Performance Contract, Roofing Projects – Manchester Schools, Bakersville Kindergarten Addition & Electrical Improvements, Highland Goffs Falls & Parker-Varney Flooring Replacement, Memorial High School Media Center, and McDonough Kindergarten Addition and is submitting same to the Board for informational purposes.

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

- N.** The Committee on Lands and Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen find property located on Hobart Street be found surplus to City needs and further that:

In accordance with RSA 80:42 I. and II. the Mayor be authorized to dispose of certain property situated at Hobart Street, now known as Map 0497, Lot 0008 by executing deeds releasing all rights, title interest, or claims in said property. Said properties were merged and formerly known as Map 0497, Lot 185 (formerly owned by William Gagne and acquired by the City of Manchester by virtue of Tax Collector’s deed dated May 7, 1932 and recorded in Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds on May 12, 1932, Volume 0913, Page 0343); Map 0497, Lots 186-189 (formerly owned by William Gagne and acquired by the City of Manchester by virtue of Tax Collector’s deed dated September 27, 1937 and recorded in Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds on September 27, 1937, Volume 0968, Page 0256); and Map 0497, Lot 0008 (formerly owned by Joseph Cappuccilli and acquired by the City of Manchester by virtue of Tax Collector’s deed dated September 21, 1938 and recorded in the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds on September 21, 1938, Volume 0977, Page 0257).

The Committee advises that it finds just cause to dispose of such land through sale to an abutter because it is not suitable as a stand alone parcel, contains wetlands, and can be preserved best through an abutter. The Committee recommends that said property be disposed of to the abutter, Frank and Janice Hobbs for the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00), as deemed a reasonable value by the Board of Assessor's.

The Committee further recommends that the Tax Collector and City Solicitor be authorized to proceed with disposition and prepare such documents as may be required, and that the Finance Officer be authorized to credit tax deed accounts as deemed necessary.

HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ALDERMAN O'NEIL, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SMITH, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.

Nominations presented by Mayor Baines.

Elderly Services Commission

Jeffrey Bolduc to replace Irene Robie as a member of the Elderly Services Commission term to expire January 2006.

Manchester Development Corporation

W. Steven McMahon to fill the unexpired term of Ray Pinard term to expire March 11, 2004.

Jay Taylor to replace Frederick Loeffler of Directors, term to expire March 11, 2006.

Howard Brodsky to replace Robert Stephen term to expire March 11, 2006.

Mayor Baines noted that per the rules of the Board these nominations will layover unless someone wants to make a motion to suspend the rules and confirm them this evening.

Alderman Lopez moved to suspend the rules and confirm all the nominations as presented. Alderman Wihby duly seconded the motion. Mayor Baines called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Baines stated a motion would be in order to accept the resignation of Ray Pinard with regret. Ray has asked to be excused from this responsibility but not from future engagement in a lot of programs in the City. He will be back in the saddle when he is feeling a little bit better. This is a gentleman, as you know, who has become a very close friend of mine and someone who has worked tenaciously on behalf of the City, especially with economic development.

On motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to accept the resignation of Ray Pinard from the Manchester Development Corporation with regret.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

OTHER BUSINESS

A report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that Resolution:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars (\$19,638.00) from Contingency to the Assessor’s Office for a Customer Service Representative Position.”

ought to pass and be enrolled.

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries, it was voted to accept, receive and adopt the report.

A report of the Committee on Administration/Information Systems was presented recommending that a five-year agreement between the City of Manchester and Verizon New England, Inc. for telephone line services as enclosed be approved and further that the Mayor be authorized to execute same subject to the review and approval of the City Solicitor.

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries, it was voted to accept, receive and adopt the report.

Communication from Bill Hoyt, Citizens for NH Land & Community Heritage, submitting a sample resolution “In Support of Continued Funding for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)” and requesting support of same.

Alderman DeVries moved the item for discussion. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Wihby asked if you look at the back of the brochure they gave us, if I read it right it looks like there was \$8 million in projects that was going to be spent. If you look at Manchester we have \$145,000 out of the \$8 million and we are the biggest City. With a budget crunch and all of the problems that are going on in the State, I don’t know if we should be okaying something like this to send a resolution asking them to continue funding \$8 million if Manchester is only going to get \$145,000. Maybe there is another thing that the Legislature is going to want to fund that helps Manchester better than something like ½% or whatever it adds up to be.

Alderman DeVries stated if I recall the presentation that we had before this meeting we have five projects that are in the LCHIP in this round. I might ask because I don’t know the detail of the five projects and I don’t know if our guests in the audience feel better prepared to outline those projects.

Mayor Baines replied does anyone feel comfortable doing that. If you don’t, that is fine.

Ms. Gail Nessell Colglazier stated I am aware of two of the projects that are pending. One is the Friends of Valley Cemetery for the preservation of the cemetery and our organization has one pending for the restoration of our headquarters building in the Victory Park Historic District. I am sure we can find out what the others are, although perhaps not this evening.

Alderman Wihby stated my point is that with all that is going on in the State and in the City...we know the problems that are going to arise in the budget process and maybe us sending a message that we want \$145,000 or whatever the number is...some small percentage of the millions that are spent on it, by maybe just not sending this message even though we would like to get the money maybe there would be other ways that we get the money that is more beneficial to Manchester than by spending millions on something like this. We are saying we really want you to do this, spend \$12 million or whatever the number is going to be and we are only getting a little part of that. If they don't spend that \$12 million maybe we end up, because we are so big, getting more in school aid or whatever else there is. It just seems to me that it is premature to send a letter in support of something when first of all we don't even know what we are voting for because we don't know how much it adds up to.

Alderman DeVries stated my gut instinct is that these projects that are handled through LCHIP are projects that would likely fall on the City of Manchester throughout CIP if not funded through other mechanisms. I know there are several non-profit organizations, especially for environmental concerns, and I think Alderman Forest has also seen one of the past projects funded was up at Hackett Hill to aid in environmental concerns. There just aren't too many sources of funding for the specific environmental and types of projects, be they conservation or heritage preservation projects, there are not too many sources of funding for them and for us not to endorse the few sources available in the State of New Hampshire I think would be lacking.

Alderman Lopez asked could Mr. MacKenzie enlighten us on exactly how this works. If we send a resolution up there are we committing to the \$145,000 on the basis that they get \$12 million or what? Could you just enlighten us a little bit on how this project works?

Mr. MacKenzie answered I generally understand the process. We have been awarded funds before but every two years it is subject to additional funding by the State of New Hampshire. Again, I am only aware of two projects that have been funded in the City of Manchester. We were fortunate to get funds to help with the acquisition of Hackett Hill, which did save us some money since we were obligated to purchase that. It is the State Legislature that funds it. It is roughly every two years. I guess they are looking for support from this Board so the Legislature does see fit to fund the money.

Alderman Lopez asked am I assuming that we are not actually committing the \$145,000. We are just supporting a resolution for the \$12 million?

Alderman Wihby replied it is money we receive. We are not giving money.

Mr. MacKenzie stated that is correct. The City would not have to appropriate anymore money as a result of this.

Alderman Shea stated my question was similar to his. Perhaps Alderman Gatsas who is involved with the Senate could shed a little light on the situation. If, in fact, the money isn't forthcoming is it like we just keep it on record and we spin it for the next year if it were or is there an obligation that the State places it back on the community and says well you wanted this so, therefore, you have to fund it?

Alderman Gatsas responded I want to thank Alderman Shea for bringing me in to the mix because I was going to abstain being on the Finance Committee and obviously having to vote on this issue at the State level. The way LCHIP works is that the State of NH funded \$12 million - \$3 million in the first part of the biennium and \$9 million in the second part of the biennium. Those projects are then categorized and the money is given out. It has nothing to do with a particular project in Manchester. If they go for LCHIP it does not mean that the City of Manchester has to fund that. Those are done by LCHIP once the grants are made. So there is no obligation by the City if we don't get that funding.

Alderman O'Neil stated I guess and I don't want to speak for Alderman Wihby but I think this is where he was going. Might there be better ways of getting money back to the City of Manchester than through this program for the people that applied? I think it is a very interesting point.

Mayor Baines replied I think that is something that I would like to talk to the staff a little bit about and see if there are some opportunities. Is there any reason why we couldn't go forward with this motion and then do what Alderman Wihby suggested?

Alderman Wihby stated what we are doing is we are sending a communication to the Governor and the House and the Senate that we want this amount of money set aside for LCHIP. It is fine to go up there and argue for that case and try to get that money as we always do but to tell them that we want this money for LCHIP, I think we are taking it away from something else that it could be better spent on or even if we just got our share and used it for that but when you look at \$145,000 and the \$9 million that the Senator used, just give us a little of that. We will fund LCHIP and keep the rest of it for something else. We are not getting our share of the money even though we are endorsing LCHIP.

Ms. Colglazier stated there actually is no specific amount of funding attached to this resolution and the Governor has not been asked for any particular amount. It is just the concept of this as a program that should continue to be funded and the amount of funding that comes to any community depends entirely on the number of applications that the community or a non-profit organization or an individual submits so if citizens of a particular community are very enthusiastic and submit a number of projects they are likely to get in return a fair amount of money. I think it is a good sign that there are five projects now pending.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Wihby being duly recorded in opposition and Alderman Gatsas abstaining.

Resolution:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars (\$19,638.00) from Contingency to the Assessor’s Office for a Customer Service Representative Position.”

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard it was voted to read the Resolution by title only and it was so done.

Alderman Osborne moved that the Resolution ought to pass and be enrolled. Alderman Garrity duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Garrity asked what is the balance in that line item.

Mr. Clougherty replied \$141,600.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Wihby stated I would like to go back to the other subject for a minute. There is a letter we are sending and the letter says that we recommend it be funded at \$12 million so there is a number we are asking and it was only \$9 million. There is an increase we are asking for.

Alderman O'Neil stated I really wasn't ready to vote when we did because I was trying to read through this quickly but I am not sure that this program is really set-up for an urban environment like Manchester. It appears that this is all rural. Alderman Wihby brought up a very good point about maybe there was a different way of getting money back to the City. Again, I am just looking at this for the first time this evening. There are not a lot of City projects in here around the State.

Mayor Baines replied again I am going to be talking to staff to see if there are some opportunities to do that.

TABLED ITEM

Report of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading recommending that Ordinances:

“Amending Section 33.011 (Retired Employees; Policy on Rehiring) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.046 (H) Entrance Pay Rates of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

ought to pass.

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Wihby, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated there has been an amended version submitted by the Human Resources Director and City Solicitor. They did review both ordinances, which was by request of the Board and that is the reason this was tabled. I guess if you would like to accept a motion to amend the report to reflect the ordinance in its amended version that would be appropriate.

Alderman O'Neil asked do we have that.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered it is attached to the agenda. It looks pretty much the same. The amended version is actually the back page of the agenda.

Mayor Baines asked could someone explain the amended version.

Ms. Lamberton stated what happened apparently was through the process of the cutting and pasting world the first part of the sentence was not in the document that you looked at in the last meeting. As soon as the City Solicitor and I met that was the first thing that became apparent so all we did was add the first four or five words back to the proposed ordinance.

Alderman Lopez moved to amend the report to reflect the ordinance in its amended version. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Smith and Garrity being duly recorded in opposition.

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn it was voted to accept, receive and adopt the report as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated we have an ordinance amendment that was submitted by the Human Resources Director regarding the Web Services Administrator and Information Technology Support Specialist. When the Board adopted the ordinance a couple of meetings ago, the exempts and non-exempts were not explicitly correct so we want to correct that. We would like to refer this to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading.

Alderman Lopez moved to refer this item to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading.
Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Wihby asked can't we just do that here.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied you can suspend the rules and place it on its final reading without referral to Committees.

The prior motion was withdrawn.

Alderman Lopez moved to suspend the rules and place the ordinance as presented on its final reading at this time without referral to the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration or the Committee on Bills on Second Reading. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion. Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Gatsas and Guinta being duly recorded in opposition.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I would need a motion to read the ordinance by title only.

“Amending Section 33.025 Health Department Information Technology Support Specialist and amending Section 33.025 Web Services Administrator of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries, it was voted to read the ordinance by title only and it was so done.

This Ordinance having had its final reading by title only, Alderman Lopez moved on passing same to be Ordained. Aldermen DeVries duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

A report of the Committee on Human Resources was presented recommending that a request from the Police Chief to reclassify an Administrative Assistant I position to a Police Records Specialist I be granted and approved.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to accept, receive and adopt the report.

A report of the Committee on Human Resources was presented recommending that a request from the Airport Director to establish one additional Airport Communications Operations Specialist position at a salary grade 13 be approved and further recommending that same be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for ordinance preparation and technical review.

Alderman Wihby asked can we do the same thing, your Honor.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered we don't have the official ordinance. We could bring it back at the next meeting if you want to table it and we will bring it back in its proper form.

Mayor Baines asked so the motion would be to approve and have the Clerk prepare it for its final reading at the next meeting.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered at the next meeting we will put a motion to suspend the rules and we will submit it.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn it was voted to accept, receive and adopt the report.

[NOTE: Review following the meeting determined an ordinance amendment was not required, and no subsequent action of the Board was required or taken.]

Alderman O'Neil stated I still have some concerns with LCHIP and I don't want to make a mockery out of this but I think we need some more information. I would like to see what the five requests are. I don't know if a motion to reconsider would be appropriate.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied a motion to reconsider or to rescind and then you can table it.

Alderman O'Neil asked am I correct because I voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Baines stated we could do that.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't have any problem with the LCHIP program but Alderman Wihby brings up a very good point. There is not a heck of a lot of money coming back to the cities in that program.

Mayor Baines asked is there anything imperative about this being approved tonight or could we reconsider and...

Alderman O'Neil interjected I was going to suggest tabling it. Having served for a brief time in the Legislature when you get a letter from a city you generally pay attention to it. That is true up there. If that is not our...

Deputy Clerk Johnson interjected he can table it or he can...

Alderman O'Neil interjected I am not big on reconsidering but if that is what we can do I think we need to take a look at where this thing is going.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated if I understand it you just want to place this back on the table and get more information.

Alderman O'Neil replied correct.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated then probably a motion to rescind the previous action and to table this item would be appropriate.

Alderman O'Neil moved to rescind the previous action to send a resolution in support of continued funding for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) to the State. Alderman Guinta duly seconded the motion. Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman DeVries being duly recorded in opposition and Alderman Gatsas abstaining.

Alderman O'Neil moved to table the request to send a resolution in support of LCHIP to the State. Alderman Guinta duly seconded the motion. Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Alderman DeVries being duly recorded in opposition and Alderman Gatsas abstaining.

Alderman O'Neil asked would it be possible to find out who the five applicants were from the City to the program.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated we will see what we can find out.

Alderman Shea stated I know that Alderman Wihby indicated that there might be other ways of money coming back to the City. I am not sure whether that would be prudent to explore so we can compare why we are lenient or giving a little bit less credence to this. I am wondering is there some way where we would have insight into what the City might receive in terms of any kind of money coming back that could be used in a different way?

Alderman DeVries stated I think I...I cannot see with the State budget being as tight as our budget is that they are going to find alternative mechanisms to help us with projects. The LCHIP is an established program with criteria in place. It is going to take the State a year to two years just to figure out an alternative mechanism to send monies to Manchester if the budget even allowed it. I just can't support this effort to deny the opportunity to continue LCHIP.

Mayor Baines replied I don't think that is the intent here this evening.

Alderman Wihby stated the intent is that there might be better ways of spending \$9 to \$12 million. If the City is only getting \$145,000 out of \$9 million or whatever the number was and we are the biggest City in the State and we are 10% of the State or whatever number you want to use then give us \$900,000. We will fund LCHIP and do something more with the money. There is something wrong when we are supporting...I mean if I am in a town that is getting \$2 million then yes let them go to the Governor and Legislature and say hey this is a good idea but we are only getting \$145,000. No matter what, that money is coming from somewhere. It is either coming from making you pay higher state aid or whatever. No matter what you do that number is going to be used up somewhere and it might as well be used up to our advantage when we get our percentage because we are so big rather than a little number towards LCHIP which doesn't mean anything to us.

Mayor Baines stated we are just going to revisit this at the next meeting too.

Alderman O'Neil stated we are not suggesting, Alderman, that there is not a need in the State for LCHIP but I was very surprised in looking at the information that was passed out tonight that that little money is being given to Manchester but yet we are being asked to support continuing the program as it is. That...it is probably a great program for the balance of the State but I am not sure it is a great program for the City of Manchester to be supporting.

Mayor Baines replied we are going to have to have some staff give us background on this also.

Alderman DeVries asked do you suspect, Alderman Gatsas, that if this funding amount, the \$12 million, is cut out of the budget that there will be alternative funds that will be available to send to the City of Manchester.

Alderman Gatsas replied I have already brought forward a proposal, a stabilization formula, that reduces the tax rate, which reduces \$.93, which is 3.5% to all of the taxpayers in the City of Manchester. I can't tell you about the \$12 million but the intent would be that maybe grants would be a little bit bigger and if you start looking at those on the education side of the \$12 million maybe being grants, then the City of Manchester may participate at a much greater level than what we have here. I don't know where the Governor is going or the House or the Senate but listening to Alderman Wihby I believe that those are some of the things he is expressing.

Alderman Shea stated I speak for myself here but I really think that we should have, and I brought it up at the last meeting when Alderman O'Neil was Chairman about the tuition plan. We are sort of on the outside looking in and I think that the time is approaching where obviously we have to consider whether we are going to go along with the design-build or

whether we want to keep the schools for the students of Manchester and just go along with renovations as other studies have indicated. The longer we wait and the longer we put this off and don't discuss it and then we get it the night before we are supposed to make a decision, it ain't going to fly.

Mayor Baines replied we are working with the School District people to set-up a meeting to accomplish that.

Alderman Shea stated one way that we should approach it is we should have alternatives, your Honor. In other words, they shouldn't just come to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen with design-build and nothing else. We should have comparative types of information so that we as a Board can say what is the best benefit for the students of Manchester? Do we want mega-schools for the kids or don't we? The second is what is going to be the best for the taxpayers of Manchester. These are the two things. We shouldn't worry about Bedford. We shouldn't worry about Hooksett. We shouldn't worry about Candia. We shouldn't worry about Auburn. We should be concerned about the students in Manchester first and second the taxpayers. On another subject and maybe you can answer this, your Honor, but where is the project on the corner of Bridge and Elm.

Mayor Baines stated I talked to and, Bill, I don't know if you want to come up and add anything to this but obviously we have been in regular discussions with the developers on Bridge and Elm. They are still putting together the financial package. I think there has been a delay in putting the financial package together. As you know, this is a very challenging time economically but in talking to Brian Dacey as recently as last week he is still very, very confident that the project is going to go forward.

Alderman Shea asked is there a date.

Mayor Baines replied it has been delayed six months. That is all I can tell you.

Alderman DeVries stated I have been listening to the Charter Commission from the luxury of my living room and on several occasions it has been noted that the Aldermen have not sent any directives to the Commissioners of our various departments. It appears to me that we might have an opportunity, specifically at the Fire Department with the Fire Commission to ask the Commissioners to take a look at the new station that is being built. With our budget woes we are not sure whether or not we will be manning that station and maybe we could ask them to recommend back to the department head and maybe copy us on their proposal for how they feel we might be able to accomplish the manning of that station working with the 2004 budget being presented by the department head. I would say that would be with and without new hires.

Mayor Baines asked is that a motion.

Alderman DeVries answered yes.

Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Baines stated so everyone understands the motion we are asking the Fire Commission to take a look at manning the new fire station with and without new hires and make recommendations to the Chief with a copy of those recommendations to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Alderman Gatsas stated I believe that during the budget process I asked the Chief some specific questions about that situation and we were told during the budget process that that would not hinder the manning of that station.

Mayor Baines replied I think what Alderman DeVries is pointing out...I mean we don't know what is going to happen with the outcome of the budget and just to have them look ahead and advise the Chief and the Board of various situations but there have been no appropriations for next year in terms of operation. That will be carried out through the budget process. I think that is what Alderman DeVries was referring to, am I correct?

Alderman DeVries replied yes.

Alderman Shea stated we are just looking for creative thinking on their part. Maybe we will agree with their creativity and maybe we won't but at least it is involving the Commissioners in a process that obviously would tap into their expertise. I know one of the Commissioners did appear before the Charter Commission and indicated there wasn't too much going on there and they were mostly advisory.

Mayor Baines stated right and the Board has the authority under the Charter to ask Commissions to do specific things and that is all this is.

Alderman O'Neil asked, Alderman DeVries, are you hearing something where they are talking about opening the station without additional manpower.

Alderman DeVries replied I think there are a lot of rumors being circulated and I don't think they are anything more than circus boomers at this stage. Certainly the firefighters are questioning whether or not other companies will need to be put out of service in order to open that station.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would be very concerned if we are talking about raiding other fire stations in the City to open that. Either we have the commitment or we don't.

Alderman DeVries replied I think we are asking the Commissioners to work with the Chief and report to the Chief and copy us with their findings.

Mayor Baines stated as you know no decisions have been made about the budget yet.

Alderman Wihby asked are we looking to make a motion that we tell you to fund it.

Mayor Baines answered no. First of all you can't do that but that would be in my budget address when it comes before you. All she is asking is to ask the Fire Commission to become engaged in this issue and make recommendations to the Chief and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. I think it is a very simple request and I don't see any reason why the Board wouldn't act on it.

Alderman Smith stated I am assuming that the Commission is just advisory. I know last year in the CIP Committee the Chief came in and made a recommendation for 12-16 firefighters to man that station. The Commissioners have a chance to go before the Charter Commission and express their concerns but I understand that the Chief makes the decision and not the Commission.

Mayor Baines replied that is correct but there is a provision in the Charter, which Alderman DeVries is very correct on that from time to time the Board of Aldermen may specifically ask a Commission to take on a task and report back to us and that is what this motion is.

Alderman DeVries stated actually I am asking them to report back to the Chief and copy us on their findings. I am not asking for them to report to us on it.

Alderman Guinta stated I have no problem with the motion but is that going to change what your budget would or would not include regarding that fire station.

Mayor Baines replied no. It is just asking for input. No decision...we are still putting together basic numbers right now.

Alderman Gatsas stated I would hope and I would believe that the Commission has already given the Chief some kind of input about that station rather than us having to send a message to them that they should have a conversation. There is no reason to bring that up now, not until the budget process starts. If we would like to bring them in and ask them the question then, that is fine.

Mayor Baines replied again how you choose to vote on it is up to you but there is a provision in the Charter that allows what Alderman DeVries is doing this evening. You can either vote it up or down.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. Alderman Gatsas requested a roll call. Aldermen Gatsas and Smith voted nay. Aldermen Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Forest and Wihby voted yea. Alderman Thibault was absent. The motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk